

CUR NEWS-ROOMS
AND,
REFERENCE & LENDING
LIBRARY
will shortly be opened for the
use of Subscribers to the
"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH"
FREE.

The Hongkong Telegraph

ESTABLISHED 1881.

NEW SERIES No. 275

日四月正年二十二精光 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1896.

三精光

號大廿月二英港香

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

\$1,000 ONE THOUSAND
DOLLARS.
European Subscribers to the
Hongkong Telegraph are from
1st October, 1895, claimed for
the sum of \$1,000 upon fatal
Accident.
SEE BELOW.

BANKS.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF
INDIA, LIMITED.
AUTORISED CAPITAL \$1,500,000
SUBSCRIBED \$1,125,000
PAID-UP \$1,065,000

BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED:
INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of 2 per cent.
per annum on the Daily Balance.
ON NEW FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 12 Months 4 per cent.
6 " 3 " "
3 " 2 " "
DEPOSITS RENEWED on OLD TERMS:
J. W. R. TAYLOR,
Manager, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 28th December, 1895.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.
CAPITAL PAID-UP \$800,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS \$800,000
RESERVE FUND \$35,000

INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of 2 per cent. per
annum on the Daily Balance.
On Fixed Deposits for 12 months ... 4 per cent.
" " " 6 " 3 " "
" " " 3 " 2 " "
T. H. WHITEHEAD,
Manager, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 16th September, 1895.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.
PAID-UP CAPITAL \$10,000,000
RESERVE FUND \$2,500,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$10,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:
A. McCONACHIE, Esq.—Chairman.
S. C. MICHAELSON, Esq.—Deputy Chairman,
Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Esq., J. Kramer, Esq.,
G. R. Dodwell, Esq., D. R. Sisson, Esq.,
M. D. Echel, Esq., R. Shaw, Esq.,
R. M. Gray, Esq., N. A. Sieba, Esq.
CHIEF MANAGER:
Hongkong—T. JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER:
Shanghai—J. P. Wade Gardner, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY
BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.
HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per Cent.
per annum on the daily balance.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 3 months 3 per cent. per annum.
For 6 months 3 per cent. per annum.
For 12 months 4 per cent. per annum.
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 15th February, 1896.

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted
by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be
obtained on application.
INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3½ PER
CENT. per annum.
Depositors may transfer at their option
balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED
DEPOSIT at 4 PER CENT. per annum.
For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st August, 1895.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

Authorised Capital \$1,000,000
Subscribed Capital \$500,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.
Court of Directors:

D. Gillies, Esq. Chow Tung Shang, Esq.
H. Stolffer, Esq. Kwan Ho Chuen, Esq.
Chan Kit Shan, Esq. Chief Manager,
GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per Cent.

Hongkong, 23rd October, 1895.

INSURANCES.

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned AGENTS of the above
Company are prepared to accept First
CLASS FOREIGN and CHINESE RISKS at
CURRENT RATES.

SIEMSEN & Co.
Hongkong, 28th May, 1895.

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED \$1,000,000

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

CHAU TSEUNG FAT,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

Hongkong, 25th May, 1895.

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000 } \$83,333.33

EQUAL TO \$318,000.00
RESERVE FUND \$318,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

LEE SING, Esq. LO YEEU MOON, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken
at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the
World.

HEAD OFFICE, 5 & 6, PRAYA WEST.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1895.

BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG HOTEL—PRAYA.

Sole Eastern Agents for

SIMPSON GRIP ARMoured HOSE
SNOWDON, SONS & CO. "SNOW-
DRIFT" MANUFACTURER.

THE New Wire Wove ROOFING CO.
THE ALUMINUM AND GENERAL
FOUNDRY CO.

BELL'S ASBESTOS BOILER COMPOSITION
HAS BEEN PROVED TO BE THE BEST AT PRESENT USED IN THE EAST.
ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR COVERING ANY CLASS OF WORK.

W. JACKSON, Manager.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1896.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
GENERAL STORE-KEEPERS AND COMMISSION AGENTS.
SHIPCHANDLERY, DEPARTMENT.

SIR CHAS. PRICE & CO.'S ENGINE and CYLINDER OILS.
ENGLEBERT'S CYLINDER OIL.
CRANE'S CYLINDER OIL.
VALVOLINE, CASTOR OIL, &c., &c.

TUCK'S GENUINE PATENT PACKING.
ASBESTOS PACKINGS of all kinds.
PARAGON PATENT PACKING.

ROPE, CANVAS, &c.
HUBBUCK'S PAINTS and VARNISHES.
HOLZAPFEL'S PATENT COMPOSITION, ANTI-CORROSIVE and ANTI-FOULING, for
STEEL VESSELS.

SOAPSTONE ENAMEL COMPOSITIONS for HODS, BUSTERS and TOP-SIDERS.

FRESH WATER SUPPLIED.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1896.

MEATS

AT H.K. HOTEL

MONTHLY RATES FOR

REMEYER, TIFFIN, DINNER, ALL 3 MEALS

15 C. 20 C. 25 C.

20 C. 25 C. 30 C.

25 C. 30 C. 35 C.

30 C. 35 C. 40 C.

35 C. 40 C. 45 C.

40 C. 45 C. 50 C.

45 C. 50 C. 55 C.

50 C. 55 C. 60 C.

55 C. 60 C. 65 C.

60 C. 65 C. 70 C.

65 C. 70 C. 75 C.

70 C. 75 C. 80 C.

75 C. 80 C. 85 C.

80 C. 85 C. 90 C.

85 C. 90 C. 95 C.

90 C. 95 C. 100 C.

95 C. 100 C. 105 C.

100 C. 105 C. 110 C.

105 C. 110 C. 115 C.

110 C. 115 C. 120 C.

115 C. 120 C. 125 C.

120 C. 125 C. 130 C.

125 C. 130 C. 135 C.

130 C. 135 C. 140 C.

135 C. 140 C. 145 C.

140 C. 145 C. 150 C.

145 C. 150 C. 155 C.

150 C. 155 C. 160 C.

155 C. 160 C. 165 C.

160 C. 165 C. 170 C.

165 C. 170 C. 175 C.

170 C. 175 C. 180 C.

175 C. 180 C. 185 C.

180 C. 185 C. 190 C.

185 C. 190 C. 195 C.

190 C. 195 C. 200 C.

195 C. 200 C. 205 C.

200 C. 205 C. 210 C.

205 C. 210 C. 215 C.

210 C. 215 C. 220 C.

215 C. 220 C. 225 C.

220 C. 225 C. 230 C.

225 C. 230 C. 235 C.

230 C. 235 C. 240 C.

235 C. 240 C. 245 C.

240 C. 245 C. 250 C.

245 C. 250 C. 255 C.

250 C. 255 C. 260 C.

255 C. 260 C. 265 C.

260 C. 265 C. 270 C.

265 C. 270 C. 275 C.

270 C. 275 C. 280 C.

275 C. 280 C. 285 C.

280 C. 285 C. 290 C.

285 C. 290 C. 295 C.

290 C. 295 C. 300 C.

295 C. 300 C. 305 C.

300 C. 305 C. 310 C.

305 C. 310 C. 315 C.

310 C. 315 C. 320 C.

315 C. 320 C. 325 C.

320 C. 325 C. 330 C.

325 C. 330 C. 335 C.

330 C. 335 C. 340 C.

335 C. 340 C. 345 C.

340 C. 345 C. 350 C.

345 C. 350 C. 355 C.

350 C. 355 C. 360 C.

355 C. 360 C. 365 C.

360 C. 365 C. 370 C.

365 C. 370 C. 375 C.

To-day's
Advertisements.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.
FOR TIENTSIN (DIRECT).

THE Steamship

"NANCHANG."
Captain Fidleyton, will be despatched to
MORROW, the 27th instant, at 3 P.M.
For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.
Hongkong, 26th February, 1896.

FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL

THE Steamship

"PORT ADELAIDE"
Captain Morgan, will be despatched for the
above Port on SATURDAY, the 19th instant, at
Noon, followed by the

S.S. "GHAZEE"

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DODWELL, CARLILL & CO.,

Agents.
Hongkong, 26th February, 1896.

Douglas STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHOW.
THE Company's Steamship

"HAITAN."

Captain Roach, will be despatched for the above
Ports on FRIDAY, the 28th instant, at
Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAKE & CO.,

General Managers.
Hongkong, 26th February, 1896.

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAM-
SHIP COMPANY.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES OF CARGO per Steamship
"COPTIC."

The above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of
Cargo are hereby requested to send in their
Bills of Lading for Countersignature, and to
take immediate delivery of their Goods from
alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel
will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk
and expense.

J. S. VAN BUREN,

Hongkong, 26th February, 1896.

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK &
COMPANY, LIMITED.
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLY AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

GINGER ALE.

SARASPARILLA.

RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are
made under the constant supervision of a duly
qualified English Chemist and will bear compa-
rison with the best English Manufactures.

Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSSES and
other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the
Manager.
Hongkong, 3rd May, 1896.

1896

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES
AND
SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London House,
bought direct at first hand, imported in wood
and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all inter-
mediate profits, and enabling us to supply the
best growths at MODERATE PRICES.

PRICE LISTS,
with Full Details, to be had on Application.

PORt after removal should be rested a month
before use. When required for drinking at
once it should be ordered to be decanted at
the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY.—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner
Wines of very superior Vintages. All are
true Xeres Wines.

CLARET.—Our Claretts, including the lowest
priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine
product of the juice of the grape and are not
artificially made from raisins and currents
as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be
pure Cognac, the difference in price being
merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY.—All our Whisky is of excellent
quality and of greater age than most brands
in the market. The SCOTCH WHISKY
marked "E" is universally popular, and is
pronounced by the best local connoisseurs
to be superior to any other brand in the
Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our WINES and SPIRITS
to be genuine when bought direct from us in
the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the
Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Hongkong, 10th January, 1896.

BIRTHS.

At Tientsin, North China, on the 5th inst.,
the wife of J. F. Moore, of a son.

At Foochow, on the 7th instant, the wife of E.
Wokay, of a son.

At Killiney House, St. Thomas Walk,
Singapore, on the 13th instant, the wife of R.
Scoular, of a son.

At Franklin-on-Main, on the 13th instant,
the wife of Louis Katz, of Singapore, of a
daughter.

At Shanghai, on the 21st instant, the wife of
CHARLES GRANT, of twins; son and daughter.

DEATHS.

At Glasgow, on the 9th inst., ARCHIBALD
KENNEDY, Editor of the "Young Gazette," aged
48 years.

On 1st January, in India, of enteric fever, con-
tracted whilst in discharge of her duties at the
Station Hospital, Allahabad, Sister EVERTINE
MARY LEICESTER, Indian Nursing Service,
eldest daughter of the Revd. J. A. Leicester, of
West Dulwich, S.E., aged 28 years.

SEGUIN, February 16th.

Prior to the outbreak of February 11th, some
body addressed the King advising him to proceed
to the Russian Legation, and although it is
now impossible to say who this was, the message
is said to have been as follows:—"The present
Cabinet Ministers are secretly arranging with
the Japanese soldiers that propose to force their
way into the Palace and deliberate Your
Majesty. The scheme is now completed and
the crisis is approaching. Your Majesty is
therefore advised to go to the Russian Legation
before the plot matures, in case of
danger." This message is said to have been
conveyed by one named Kin Meisho to a Count
Lady, who presented it to the King. The King
was much excited on receiving the document,
and at once determined to proceed to the
Russian Legation.

The King went to the Russian Legation at
dawn on the 11th. Armed Russian marines
were waiting at the back-gate of the Palace
when the King and the Crown Prince were
conducted to the gate by two Court Ladies, named
Kia and Won, who handed over the King and
Crown Prince to the Russian marines to be
conducted by them to the Russian Legation. Then
Court Ladies were in the scheme for
removing the King and Prince. The Court
Lady Won is said to be a great favorite of
the King's, and she has a warm acquaintance with
Mrs. Webster.

The headquarters of the administration are
established at the Russian Legation, and various
Departments in temporary buildings erected in
the neighbourhood of the Russian Legation.

None of the new Cabinet Ministers have
returned to their own residences or left the
Legation since the 11th instant.

Li Han-shin, said to have been in hiding at
the Russian Legation since October 8th, was
the instigator and commander of the rioters at
Chun-chih.

A BRITISH MOVE.

PARIS, February 24th.

It is declared in St. Petersburg that Russia
does not intend to occupy Korea but that she is
entitled to exercise its complete autonomy.

ANGLO-FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS.

In a discussion in the French Chamber M.
Berthelot said that the negotiations respecting
the Upper Mekong Question had been con-
ducted in a spirit of collaboration, and that he
hoped the same spirit would lead to an arrangement
of other questions between Great Britain
and France.

(From "L'Avant du Tonkin.")

THE COLONIAL ARMY.

PARIS, February 8th.

It is announced officially that M. Cavagnac
has prepared his project for the creation of a
colonial army and will place the scheme before
the Chamber on Saturday next.

At the present time there are in Seoul upwards
of 400 foreign troops—Russia, British, Americans,
and particularly some Germans.

The YILSHAHO states that the new Korean
Government dispatched yesterday the following
telegram to the Korean Minister in Tokio, who
at once proceeded to the Foreign Department to
report the matter:—"Although a new Cabinet
has been established progressive principles will
remain unchanged, and friendly relations with
Korea will undergo no change. Intimate this to
the Japanese Government."

YU-LI, formerly Commander-in-Chief of Monkien,
has been appointed to the same post at Foochow,
and has gone up to Peking for audience of the
Emperor.

YU-LI, February 16th.

The German cruisers Arcona and Cormoran
left Amoy, bound for Shanghai (old Foochow),
Nagasaki and Korea on the 21st instant. It
was understood in Amoy before these vessels
weighed anchor that the Cormoran might
arrive direct to Chemulpo from Shanghai,
leaving the Arcona to continue the cruise via
Nagasaki and Korean ports.

FIRE was discovered about 4 o'clock this
morning in No. 399 Queen's Road Central,
which, despite the early arrival of the Fire
Brigade, gutted that house and damaged the
adjoining house, No. 311. The occupants of the
burned-out house were insured in various
companies for \$15,400, the Hongkong Fire being
the largest loss.

An inquiry will be held.

M. HITTOV, the Russian Minister, is said,
according to a Japanese paper, to have
assured an interviewer that the recent occurrences
in Seoul took him completely by surprise. He
had intended to ask M. Speyer to occupy the
post of Charge d'Affaires when he started on
his return to Russia on the 23rd inst. to attend
the coronation of the Tsar, and he therefore was
quite unaware that any trouble was brewing in
Seoul.—Fancy that, now!

LAST night Mr. R. Reiter, and Mr. D. Blyth
played off their heat in the New Victoria Hotel
by Billiard Handicap. Mr. Reiter conceding his
opponent go point, and winning, after an inter-
esting and close game, by 18 points only.

Mr. Korczi, the "wild man from Borneo,"
will play his opponent at 9 to-night. On
Thursday evening Mr. J. Rodger will play Mr.
Severn, and as there are now only four more
games to be played to bring the tournament to
a close, the popular "Vic" should be mightily
thronged by patrons of the game.

COURT Canton correspondent, writing under date
25th instant, reports that he has received a
telegram from Nanking stating the Viceroy Liu
Kung-yi was then momentarily expected at that
city, and that Chang Chih-tung has decided to
hand over the seals of the Viceroyalty of the
Liangjiang provinces (K'angsu, Kiangsi and
Anwei), of the Chief Superintendent of the
Nanyang Trade and Foreign Intercourse and
High Commissioner of the Salt Revenue, etc.,
to Li on the 26th instant. After this Chang will
proceed to Wuchang, where he is to resume duty
as Viceroy of the Liang-hu—Hunan and Hupeh.

A VERY disastrous fire occurred in Bangkok on
Sunday, the 16th inst. Various causes are given
for the initial cause, fire-crackers being most
probable, but at any rate a very large number
of houses, principally tiled, were destroyed.
Several foreign residences were threatened, but
none were much damaged. The tram-cables and
electric light wires were burnt through, and
Bangkok was in darkness in consequence.
On the same day another fire started near the
electric light station, said to have been the work
of an incendiary, which burned out another district
near by, seriously threatening the elevated water
factory and tram station, which were both, how-
ever, saved. The total loss must have been
considerable, but no estimates are given by our
Bangkok correspondents.

THE British cruiser *Pique* is reported by a Japan-
ese newspaper to have been captured by
Japanese marines.

Early yesterday morning Russian marines
proceeded to the back-gate of the Palace, and
at this time officials of the Royal Household
came out, escorting the King, Crown Prince,
and Princess, and Court Ladies. They had
possession of the Great Seal. The Russian
marines escorted the party to the Russian
Legation.

Kin, ex-Premier, yesterday attended the Cab-
inet Office, and was arrested as he came out
in a palanquin. He was besieged by a constable
in front of the Metropolitan Police Office.
His remains were afterward burnt together with
the body of Chang, ex-Minister of Agriculture
and Commerce. This was done in revenge for
the treatment accorded the late Queen.

The report that Li Han-shin is staying at the
Russian Legation, has been confirmed.

The Russian Legation is strictly guarded by
Russian and Korean soldiers.

Chang, ex-Minister of Justice, barely escaped
with his life.

Some mounted constables have gone through
the streets announcing the withdrawal of the
hair-cutting regulations.

Ming El-chun and Ming El-kun entered the
Russian Legation to-day.

All the prisoners held in connection with the
disturbance of November 23rd have been
released.

SEOUL, February 12th.

The fact that the King was conducted with
ease to the Russian Legation during the disturbance
of yesterday morning is due to the support of
the officials in the Royal Household.

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THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1896.

THE CRISIS IN KOREA.

STORMY MEETING OF THE JAPANESE DICT.

The House of Representatives met at 1:20 p.m. on the 14th instant.

After the usual report had been made by the Secretary, Messrs Takagi and Voda explained their Questions to the Government in connection with private electric railway enterprise and the enforcement of the Gun System.

Mr. Kudo next appeared on the rostrum and spoke in explanation of the Question to the Government, introduced by himself and some others, in connection with the latest Korean *coup d'état*. Notwithstanding the fact that in the preceding session the Minister President declared that the independence of Korea should be maintained by Japan herself, the Government since then had notified to the United States that the Japanese Government had adopted a policy of non-interference toward Korea, and was willing to work together with other Powers. When asked by Mr. Hasiba on the 15th ultimo about the matter the Minister President made no definite reply, and on the 16th ultimo he said, in answer to Mr. Yamagawa in the Upper House, that the Government's policy towards Korea had not changed at all. What was the latest event? Read the Imperial Declaration of War. What was the object of the war? Was it not for the purpose of helping Korea and maintaining her independence against Chinese interference? It was the duty of Japan, then, to safeguard her independence against any party who sought to injure the rights of Korea as an independent country. Now the Korean King is reported to have been confined in the Russian Legation, a new Cabinet was organized there, and Royal Decrees and Administrative Ordinances have been issued from the said Legation. Could this be said not to have injured the prestige of an independent country? If the matter were passed over the Imperial Declaration of War would become void and meaningless, and Japan would practically contradict her own avowal to the world. It was therefore necessary to enquire as to the policy the Government intends to pursue hereafter towards Korea. Mr. Kudo referred to the reports of Russia's connection with Kiauchau Bay, and the surveying of the interior of Korea, and said it was difficult to reconcile the confining of the sovereign of an independent country in a foreign legation with the principles of international law or justice. The situation was an outcome of the Government's diplomatic failure over the Lioutong Question. He would not, however, now find fault with the Government in regard to matters of the past, but he desired to know what policy it proposed to pursue hereafter. He wanted the Minister President to personally explain the Government's policy.

Mr. Takeuchi then spoke in explanation of his question regarding Lioutong; 2. As to the past and future policy towards Korea; 3. As to three million yen lent to Korea. Regarding the retrocession of Lioutong he declared it was highly regrettable and a disgrace to the State, and attacked the authorities for the interference, seeing that it might have been foreseen. He held that the Government was insincere in the discharge of its duty to the State and impelled to the House in not giving a satisfactory explanation to the House in regard to a grave question of State, and wanted to know the facts not mentioned in the papers laid before the House. As to the policy towards Korea, the speaker thought the Government had no fixed policy. From the Imperial Declaration of War and the Minister President's speech in the House during the war it must have been concluded that the Government's policy was to protect the independence of Korea by Japan's own power. Only a year after making a declaration that Korea would be protected by Japan developments of the gravest kind had occurred in Korea. The Shimonekai Treaty also placed importance on the maintenance of Korea's independence, and now the Government appeared so indifferent to the peninsula as to justify the opinion that it no longer took thought of the Imperial Declaration and the Treaty referred to. The speaker further referred to Russia's extension of influence in Korea and said that the Russia of to-day was like the China of former days, and Korea was now becoming as it was a dependent of Russia.

At this stage the President stopped the speaker and reported that an Imperial Edict had been received. The Edict was read as follows:—“We, in accordance with Article VII of the Imperial Constitution, order the prorogation of the Imperial Diet for ten days from the 15th of February to the 24th.” The House rose at 2:30 p.m.—*Kobe Herald*.

WHO WILL BE OUR ALLY?

The “jack-boot policy” of the German Emperor, as the *Kladderadatsch* approvingly calls it, is forcing Englishmen to consider the question of alliances very earnestly, and there is none more difficult within the whole field of politics. It is hard to find an ally whom we can trust, and who will accept our alliance. There is neither sickliness nor treachery among us, only a world pride and reserve, but we succeed very often in creating a false impression. Still, whatever the difficulties, the circumstances of the hour point to an alliance, or at least to a new friendship, and it is worth while to think for a moment with whom it ought to be contracted. A month ago half England, perhaps the larger half, would have replied that—Germany must be the friend; but William II. has for this generation contrived to render that answer impossible. No Englishman will trust him again while he lives, or believe that he entertains any feeling towards this country except the one expressed in Blucher's celebrated saying about London: “Lord, what a place to plunder!” The new family which His Majesty, in his overweening self-confidence and military pride, has been pleased to create, forbids our turning to Germany, and from Austria there is as little to hope as to fear. She will remain friendly, as she has always been, and England will welcome her advance to Salicote, and the addition of Macedonia to the long list of federated Kingdoms under the House of Hapsburg; but Austria cannot abandon Germany, and, except in the Balkans, has no immediate power of aiding British policy. With Italy we have always an alliance, and we are glad to believe that the Italian prayer for right to pass through Zelis is about to be granted; but Italy, though much stronger for our campaign, has

most people believe, is scarcely to be reckoned yet among the first-class Powers.

The English would prefer a permanent alliance with the United States to any other that could be suggested, and many of the wisest among them believe that such an alliance is among the certainties of the future. The two countries have no conflicting interests; they are not divided either by race, religion, or political ideas; and they have a profound reliance on each other's strength, endurance, and fidelity. The time, however, is not ripe. The two nations have few common interests, they are divided by traditional antipathies which produce distrust, and one of them dislikes and repudiates the idea of being involved in European complications. Neither the antipathies nor the isolation of the United States, America growing fast out of her soil, will last, but for the present she could offer nothing except neutrality, and with that we must perform remain contented. That is enough to secure our hearty good will; but for a working alliance available for the next few years we shall be compelled to turn elsewhere—that is, in practice, either to Russia or France, or it may even chance to both.

Many interests draw Great Britain towards Russia, one being the fact that each has so very much to give. On the one hand, the chance of Russia obtaining her favourite objects, the acquisition of Constantinople and the utilization of her amazing Empire in Northern Asia, would be doubled or tripled by the mere withdrawal of British opposition. It is nothing to us who holds Constantinople if it's held by a friend, and if Russia can turn Siberia into a Canada, so much the better for us and for the world. We do not believe there is an Englishman alive who, but for his suspicion of sinister designs, would object to Russia owning Port Arthur and Manchuria, or exercising a predominant influence over Northern China and Japan. We seek nothing up there except “life, and dread nothing except the rise of an sufficiently Power, who might practically deprive us of our markets or even compel us to abandon the North Pacific. On the other hand, Russia can set us at our ease in India, can help us to make ourselves secure in South China and the Archipelago, and can in the Near East arrange with us for that trans-formation of the Turkish Empire which, whether we like it or not, will be the great external work of the first quarter of the next century. Once on a footing of cordial agreement with Russia, we could safely Europe from the presence of the Turk, who is now acting as an enemy of the human race, and could secure from Constantinople to Canton not only the peace, but the good government of the whole of Asia, including not only the Armenians, but the Persians and the Arabs. Not a shot could be fired in the most populous quarter of the world without our joint permission, and we see no reason whatever why we should not, throughout that vast section of the globe, bid violent oppression cease. That is a magnificent prospect; but of course the difficulties are many. One, which we believe to be “wholly unreal,” is the jealousy of ages as to that hope of possessing Constantinople which Russia is unable to give up. Another, which is partly unreal, is the dread of treachery which exists on both sides, but which we believe could be smoothed away if both Governments were willing; and the third, which is very real, is the British fear lest we should be drawn by any alliance into assisting Russia in an invasion of Western Europe. We cannot do that, whatever happens; but it is not necessary to make an agreement cover so vast and indefinite a field. It is not in Europe, but in Asia, that Russia and Great Britain need to understand each other, and act together.

And, lastly, there is France. There is no need, we suppose, to prove to any reasonable politician that—Germany having with a kind of brutal frankness refused our friendship, and stated her intention of injuring us if she can upon a vital point, the possession of South Africa—the friendship of France is the most valuable we could possibly obtain. She is the only power which could ever threaten to invade us; she is the only one whose fleet could attempt to dispute with us the sovereignty of the seas; and she is the only Power who meets us everywhere—in Africa, in the Mediterranean, and in Asia. A cordial agreement with France, would double the effective power of Great Britain, and we do not believe that, in spite of Egypt, such an agreement is impossible.—*Spectator*.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Hongkong, February 26th.

Mr. G. H. Potts reports as follows in his *Shares List* issued at 5 p.m. to-day:—

Our annual Race Meeting somewhat interfered with business, but since its resumption a fair amount has been put through, and most stocks show an advance on last week's quotations.

The National Bank of China, Limited, has advertised its Meeting for the 7th March.

The Union Insurance Society of Canton has given notice that an Extraordinary Meeting of shareholders will be held on the 12th March.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled very firm and sales have been effected at rates between 1/2 and 1/4 per cent. premium, closing with buyers at the latter rate. There is no business to report in National or Bank of China;

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been placed at \$75 and are enquired for. Yangtze River, \$1,000, with buyers at \$1,025. Cautions are wanted at \$100 and Straits at \$125.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have had a considerable rise, and sales have been made at \$200 and \$205, the market closing with buyers at \$200. China Fires have been sold at \$80 per cent. dividend and are wanted.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have improved their position, and rates at \$125 and \$135 have been effected. Indo-China have been in strong demand, with the result that rates have changed hands at \$600 and \$615 and are now quoted at \$635. Douglas Steamships have been taken off the market at \$65 and China and Manila at \$70.

REINSURANCE.—Caike-Segers have been placed and are in strong demand at \$112. Luxons have been sold at \$68.

MIMMO.—Pompons have been sold at \$55, \$65, and \$66, and are now enquired for at \$59. Rands are offering at \$430.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have found ready buyers at 1/2 and 1/2 per cent. premium cum dividend. A fair number of Kowloon Wharf shares have changed hands at \$445, \$455, and \$455, and more can be placed at the latter rate.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Land Investment shares continue in demand and “sales” at \$725 and \$735 have been made. Kowloon Lands have been sold at \$155 and are still enquired for. Tramways have been sold at \$55, and Hongkong Docks at \$55.

MICROSCOPE.—Green Island Cement have charged hands at \$145 and \$145. A. S. Watsons have been placed at \$115 and are now in demand. Co. Fawcett's have been sold at \$25 and are still enquired for. Tramways have been sold at \$55, and Hongkong Docks at \$55.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE:

American (*Doric*) 29th Inst.

Indian (*Chelydra*) 3rd prox.

American (*City of Rio de Janeiro*) 3rd prox.

Tacoma (*Hankow*) 6th prox.

Tacoma (*Strathnaver*) 12th prox.

The Ind-China Co.'s steamship *Cashayra* from Calcutta and the Straits, left Singapore for this port at 6 p.m. yesterday.

SHIPPING RETURNS.

From 5 p.m. yesterday to 5 p.m. to-day.

ARRIVALS.

Thales, steamer, from Amoy, etc.

Boynton, " Kuching, etc.

Coptic, " America.

Halton, " Coasts Pairs.

Arles, " Moll.

Formosa, " Singapore.

Kengtung, " Bangkok.

Rhodes, " Saigon.

Phra Chom Klae, " Vancouver.

Empress of Japan, " Canton.

Kwailun, " Canton.

Kansu, " Aggregating 19,789 tons register.

DEPARTURES.

Kesmeine, steamer, for Shanghai.

Triumph, " Holloway.

Stam, " Swatow.

Tetartos, " Salagon.

Fochou, " Amoy, etc.

Glenorchy, " Shanghai.

Kwailun, " Swatow.

Wingkong, " Yokohama.

Takao, " Shanghai.

Dardanus, " Shanghai.

Aggregating 14,164 tons register.

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TRANSFERABLE.

Hongkong, 21st February, 1896.

PRICES—\$1, \$2 & \$1.

REMEMBER THE DATES!

Hongkong, 21st February, 1896.

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ORDERS AND ARROWS.

WHEN the captain of a ship orders some hands aloft to furl the main royal the men jump to obey, as a matter of course. A sailor can climb up on a yard without having a shilling ashore or a penny in his pocket. In fact, Jack seldom signs articles until he has used up both cash and credit.

But when a doctor—who is a sort of captain when one is laid up in the dry dock of illness—orders a man to go abroad for the benefit of his health, it is quite another thing. A trip and sojourn away from home is an expensive prescription, and most of us can't afford it. If the doctor says it is a choice between that and the graveyard we shall have to settle on the graveyard; it is handy by, and easy to get to. But are we really so hard pushed? That is, as often as the doctors say we are? Let's turn the matter over in our minds for a minute.

Here is a case that is pat to the purpose. It concerns Mr. Arthur Whidborne Melville, of 8, Regent's Terrace, Folkestone, Exeter, and for the details we are indebted to a letter written by him, dated March 7th, 1893. He mentions that, in obedience to the orders of his doctor, he went to Cannes, in the South of France, in November, 1890, and spent the following winter at the same place. He had the better for the change; we will tell you why presently. In March, 1891, he had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs.

It appears that this gentleman had been weak and ill nearly all his life—not exactly ill, not wholly well—a condition that calls for constant caution. In

March, 1891, he had a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs.

Now I want the reader to honour me with his best attention, as I must say in a few words what ought properly to take up your time. You can't tell where it will fall. It may hit on a neighbour's head, on your own, or on a child's, or on the pavement. Everybody's blood contains many or less poisonous elements. These are arrows, but unlike the wooden arrows they always strike on the weakest part, or spots, in the body. If they hit the muscle and joints, we call it rheumatism and gout; if they hit the bone, liver, we call it liver complaint or biliousness. If they hit the kidneys we call it Bright's disease; if they hit the nerves we call it nervous prostration; epilepsy, or any of fifty other names; if they hit the bronchial tubes we call it bronchitis, &c., &c.; if they hit the air-passes we call it inflammation of the lungs or by-and-by, consumption. And inasmuch as these poisoned arrows pass through the delicate meshes of the lungs a thousand times every day it would be odd if they didn't hit them wouldn't it?

Now, wait a bit! It follows that all the various so-called diseases above named are not *diseases* at all in and of themselves, but merely symptoms of one or more diseases—namely, those which produce the poison! Good. We will get on to the end of the story.

After the attack of lung inflammation Mr. Melville suffered from loss of appetite, pain in chest, sides, and stomach, and dangerous constipation. He could eat only liquid food and had to be laid to bed. For weeks he was so feeble that he could not rise in bed. He consulted one physician after another, obtaining no more than temporary relief from medicine. Then he was ordered abroad as we have related.

His letter concludes in these words: “Whilst at Cannes I consulted a doctor, who said my ailment was very bad, and that I need not travel about my lungs. But I never gained any real ground until November, 1891, when I began to take Mother Solig's Curative Syrup. This helped me in one week, and by continuing with it I got stronger and stronger, and am now in fair good health. This, after my relatives thought I should never recover. (Signed) Arthur Whidborne Melville.”

To sum up: This gentleman's real ailment was indigestion and dyspepsia, from which the blood poison comes that causes nearly all disorders and diseases. The air of Southern France helped him temporarily, because it is milder than ours; it did not remove the poison. By care and the use of Mother Solig's Curative Syrup he would have done better at home, as the result shows.

So it is the condition of the digestion. If therefore your doctor orders you abroad for your health, tell him you will first try Mother Solig's Curative Syrup. [Add.]

Do we see that it isn't the climate that kills or saves? Is it not the condition of the digestion. If therefore your doctor orders you abroad for your health, tell him you will first try Mother Solig's Curative Syrup. [Add.]

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